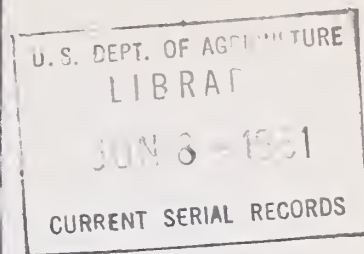


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Reserve
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Back
s an
part
of the new
market cattle test-
ing plan. The
tags are made of
plastic material
imprinted with a
combination of
numbers and
letters that
identify the
State, county,
and herd
of origin.



N-33300 - Any
cattlemen in an area
where the market
cattle testing pro-
gram is in opera-
tion may take
part. State or Fed-
eral veterinarians
and county agents
can provide informa-
tion about the
plan.

X Market Cattle Testing Plan Aids . . . **BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION** X

An economical and effective plan for screening market cattle for brucellosis is one of the newest tools in the cooperative effort by the States and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to eradicate this costly disease of livestock. This plan, which involves tagging and blood testing cows sold for beef, was designed initially for cattlemen in range and semi-range areas, but it can be used in other areas as well.

The market cattle testing program was developed to provide an easy method for cattlemen in modified-certified brucellosis areas to maintain that status. For an area to qualify as modified-

certified, the incidence of infection cannot be more than 1 percent of the cattle nor more than 5 percent of herds in the area.

Advantages of the market cattle testing plan are: (1) it saves work, time, and money by eliminating about 97 percent of all on-the-ranch blood testing; (2) it permits most beef producers in modified-certified brucellosis areas to maintain this status without further blood testing; (3) it provides a continuous screening program, so that infected animals may be promptly detected, traced back to the herds of origin, and eliminated to prevent the disease from spreading.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Picture Story No. 132
Agricultural Research Service April 1961

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.10 each from the same address.

Here's how the plan works. Cows three years of age or older to be sold for beef are back-tagged at the ranch, auction market, or other assembly point on the way to market. Blood samples are collected from these tagged animals at the packing plant or other designated points and forwarded for testing to a State-Federal cooperative laboratory. Test results are then sent to disease control officials in the State from which the cattle came. Negative tests are credited to the herd and area of origin. When blood tests show brucellosis is present, State and Federal animal disease officials work directly with the herd owner to find and eliminate any other infected animals from the herd.

Under the plan, modified-certified areas may retain this status if at least 5 percent of all breeding

cattle are tested each year, or a total of 15 percent for each three-year period. In areas where winter feeding is practiced, the plan also requires that at least 80 percent of all heifer calves retained for breeding purposes be vaccinated each year.

Cattlemen in the State of Washington were among the first to benefit from adoption of the market cattle testing program. The plan has been operating successfully in that State for the past four years. It is now being utilized to some extent in many other States.

State or Federal veterinarians and county agents can provide detailed information concerning the program, where to obtain back tags, and how to use them.



N-33303—Each cow, 3 years of age or older, is tagged before it is sent to market. The tag is placed on either side, just back of the shoulder and 4 inches below the back-line.



N-33304—Blood samples from tagged animals may be taken at auction markets or other assembly points on the way to slaughter, or they may be taken at the packing plant after slaughter.



N-33309—The tag numbers are recorded and blood samples are forwarded to a State-Federal cooperative laboratory, where brucellosis tests are conducted. Only reactors found less than 14 days after they leave a ranch are charged to the herd.



N-33312—A State or Federal veterinarian notifies the herd owner when a reactor is found among the animals from his herd. The veterinarian reviews and discusses plans of action to eradicate brucellosis from the herd.